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REMARKS

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiners notification that claims 6, 8, 9, 10, 18 and 19 are objected to and would be allowable if written in independent form including the limitations of the base claim, from which they depend, and any intervening claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 11-17 and 20-26 under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by UK Patent 2,021,770.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiners rejection of these claims. Specifically, the UK reference does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the present claims. As related to independent claims 1, 22 and 23, the UK reference does not teach that the sensor module is sealably received within a sensor pilot portion of a housing. The UK reference does teach that a sensor module is sealed (by way of an o-ring) to the housing of a cylinder, but is exposed the external environment and not protected in any way by a housing assembly as is the case with the claims of the current invention. However, Applicants have amended claims 1, 22 and 23 to more positively set forth that which is regarded as the invention. Specifically these claims have been amended to better define that the sensor module is encased within a sensor body and the sensor body is sealably received within the housing. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102 (b) of claim 1, 22 and 23. Regarding the rejection of dependent claims 2-5, 7 11-14, 18 - 21 and 24-26, since these claims add additional features to the claims from which they depend these claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §102 (b) for at least the same reasons.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 11-17 and 20-26 under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by DE 100 44 984.


Applicants again respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of these claims. Specifically, the DE reference does not teach an additional housing assembly that is attached to the body of the cylinder. In the DE reference the sensor is contained within the end cap of the cylinder and does not teach or suggest that the sensor module is not encased in

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a sensor body that in turn is sealably received in a sensor pilot portion of the housing assembly. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102 (b) of claim 1, 22 and 23. Regarding the rejection of dependent claims 2-5, 7 11-14, 18 - 21 and 24-26, since these claims add additional features to the claims from which they depend these claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §102 (b) for at least the same reasons.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the application at issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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